

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 07875

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: ADMINISTRATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS

REFS: A. USNATO 7477 (DTG 031516Z AUG 77); B. USNATO 7767
(DTG 121750Z AUG 77); C. STATE 193162 (DTG 152133Z AUG 77);
D. USNATO 6923 (DTG 181850Z JUL 77); E. USNATO 7262 (DTG
271535Z JUL 77).

1. ON AUGUST 16, CHARGE CALLED ON ACTING SYG PANSА TO
DISCUSS THE STATUS OF PO/77/113 (REF A) WITH RESPECT TO
THE FRENCH POSITION (REF B) AND IN LIGHT OF WASHINGTON
COMMENTS (REF C).

2. PANSА SAID THAT, SINCE THE FRENCH HAD INFORMED THE SYG
THAT FRANCE COULD NOT AGREE TO ADVANCES BEING CHARGED TO
BUDGETS IN WHICH IT PARTICIPATES, THE SILENCE PROCEDURE ON
PO/77/113 HAD BEEN BROKEN. AS A RESULT, HE HAS DIRECTED
THAT A JOINT MEETING OF THE MBC/CBC BE CALLED FOR AUGUST
24 TO AUTHORIZE THE REQUESTED FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THE LONG-
TERM INITIATIVES. PANSА NOTED THAT EARLY CALLING OF THE
JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING WAS ALSO IN LINE WITH
CANADIAN, BELGIAN AND US WISHES.

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3. PANSА AGREED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION WITH RESPECT TO
PO/77/113 WAS NOT IN CONSONANCE WITH THEIR STILL UNOFFI-
CIAL OVERTURES CONCERNING SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN
THE INITIATIVES. HOWEVER, PANSА HAD NOT CONTACTED THE
FRENCH DELEGATION TO RESOLVE THE SEEMINGLY INCOMPATIBLE
FRENCH POSITIONS. HE SAID HE PREFERRED TO TRY TO RESOLVE

THE BUDGETARY ISSUE AT THE BUDGET COMMITTEE LEVEL BEFORE HE APPROACHED THE FRENCH, BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT, IF THE FRENCH ARE SERIOUS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE INITIATIVES, "WE COULD BE STRONG WITH THEM ON THE BUDGET ISSUE."

4. PANSALSAID THAT, IF THE FRENCH PERSIST IN THEIR POSITION, HE HOPED THAT A DISTINCTION COULD BE MADE BETWEEN HIRING CONSULTANTS AND MEETING OTHER COLLATERAL EXPENSES (E.G. TRAVEL, PER DIEM, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.). CONSULTANTS COULD BE HIRED USING MILITARY BUDGET FUNDS; BUT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, COLLATERAL EXPENSES COULD NOT BE PINPOINTED AND SEPARATED FROM THE CIVIL BUDGET. DRAWING ON REF C, CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT, DUE TO US BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, IF MILITARY BUDGET FUNDS ARE USED TO HIRE CONSULTANTS, THE IMS WOULD HAVE TO HIRE THEM AND PROVIDE THEM TO THE TASK FORCES AS IMS REPRESENTATIVES. PANSAL COMMENTED THAT NATIONS WOULD FIRST HAVE TO AGREE TO THAT PROCEDURE, AND THEN HE WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE IMS HAD ANY PROBLEM WITH IT.

5. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH PANSAL WE CONTACTED THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BUDGET COMMITTEE SECRETARY (BLABER) TO EXPLORE PLANS TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE. HE CONFIRMED THE INTENTION TO CALL A JOINT MEETING OF MBC/CBC ON AUGUST 24. HE HAD ALREADY OPENED PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION AT COMMITTEE LEVEL WITH FRENCH REP (TAXIL). TAXIL AGREED TO CONSULT
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HIS AMBASSADOR (TINE) AND SEEK LIBERALIZATION OF THE FRENCH POSITION. TAXIL RECOGNIZED THE FRENCH POSITION DID NOT ACCORD WITH THE APPARENT FRENCH DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES, NOR WITH FRENCH AGREEMENT TO PAY FOR SOME PORTION OF MBFR AND OTHER DEFENSE-RELATED EXPENDITURES THROUGH THE CIVIL BUDGET. IT APPEARS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT, FAILING A PROMPT FRENCH CHANGE OF POSITION, NO RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF HIRING OF CONSULTANTS CAN BE EXPECTED BEFORE AUGUST 24. WE WILL KEEP WASHINGTON ADVISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. END COMMENT.

6. RETURNING TO THE QUESTION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE INITIATIVES, PANSAL RECOUNTED HOW, AT THE LAST DPC MEETING, THE SYG SAID THE QUESTION OF HOW TO HANDLE PARTICIPATION OF NON-DPC NATIONS IN THE INITIATIVES WOULD BE SETTLED IN SEPTEMBER. PANSAL SUGGESTED THE MATTER COULD BE DEALT WITH IN AN EARLY DPC MEETING. CHARGE OBSERVED THAT, IF WE HANDLE THE QUESTION OF FRENCH (AND GREEK) PARTICIPATION FORMALLY AS A MAJOR AGENDA ITEM IN THE DPC, WE MAY RISK REJECTION. PANSAL REPLIED THAT HE ENVISIONED ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS BEING AGREED UPON "BEHIND THE SCENES"

AND NOT IN OPEN DISCUSSION AT THE DPC. COMMENT: IN VIEW
OF STRONG TURKISH VIEWS, EXPRESSED BOTH IN THE EWG AND THE
DPC (REFS D AND E), WE WILL NEED TO WATCH CLOSELY THE
QUESTION OF HANDLING PARTICIPATION BY NON-DPC NATIONS.
ALTHOUGH WE TEND TO EMPHASIZE FRENCH PARTICIPATION, WE
MUST BE ALERT TO TURKISH REACTION TO GREEK PARTICIPATION
BECAUSE TURKISH OBJECTIONS TO GREECE WILL BEAR ALSO ON
FRANCE. END COMMENT. GLITMAN

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